

HELP ME GROW ADVISORY MEETING

DATE: March 11, 2025,

TIME: 10 AM

LOCATION: VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Members in Attendance	Daphne Evans, Jennifer Fromme, Aguida Atkinson, Audrey Cooper, Jamie Naudain, Mary Moor, Vik Vishnubhakta, Jenny Grady, Susan Elizabeth Cordle, Keenon Mann, Erin Nescott, Annie Norman, Debbie Finch, Diane Frentzel, Amy Fox, Emily Thompson, Kristina Horton, Ken Livingston, Chanae Grant. Paulina Gyan (Facilitator)
Agenda Item Welcome/Introductions	Paulina Gyan Minutes was reviewed by members and approved by Mary Moor.
Discussion Points	Strategic Action Plan Updates: As a follow-up to the technical assistance provided by Help Me Grow national center, HMG core team members shared the final action plan with the advisory members. Intended Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HMG Awareness• Developmental and behavioral health promotion• Informed and educated parents/caregivers• Coordinated and effective communications• Tracking data trends and utility• A shared approach to young children’s health and development Health Provider Outreach: Megan Hayes (Lead) Megan had a conflict, so Paulina provided the information. Theory Of Change (TOC): If we promote developmental and behavioral health within pediatric practices, it will enhance early detection, and referral to appropriate resources/services. The activities to accomplish this change are the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Partner with the AAP to support the use of validated developmental and behavioral health screenings tools, based on Bright Futures periodicity recommendations and utilizing the CHADIS referral platform.

The preferred screening tool for health care in the state is PEDS online or the SWYC (Nemours). This activity focuses on promoting the use of those validated instruments for developmental screens, especially for practices that do not screen at all or use non-validated tools.

2. Partner with the Reach Out and Read (ROR) program and team members to promote young child health, development and well-being.

Over time, we have learnt that leading with the ROR program is an avenue to opening opportunities to promote screenings such as developmental, oral health and lead among pediatricians. ROR also is used as a tool to engage and deliver health messages to families and physicians.

3. The utilization of the CHADIS system to collect and track data on referral and linkage of patients/families referred to early intervention services.

Scale up this pilot project to make tracking of referrals to early intervention and special education services and Help Me Grow @211 easier and streamlined.

Family & Community Engagement – Daphne Evans

TOC

1. If families understand child development and parenting strategies to support physical, cognitive, language, social and emotional development of their children, then it will improve the trajectory toward school readiness for children.
2. If partner agencies understand that the HMG model requires working collectively with existing resources/services to maximize opportunities toward a shared agenda, then there will be a movement toward collective impact thereby reducing challenges families encounter when seeking supports & services.

Activities to accomplish this are the following:

1. **HMG coordinates mental health supports and services for pediatric practices' early childhood patients.** *Anecdotal reports and data indicate gaps in mental health services, especially in pediatrics. HMG teams have met a few times to address this gap and brainstorm ideas to resolving the challenge. This is a new activity, funding remains a barrier, but the discussion is still on the radar to determine how HMG services could be leveraged to bridge the gap. Mary Moor mentioned there are many ways families access mental health services so it's important to engage private and public insurance to address challenges faced by those families not covered by Medicaid.*

- 2. Organize and implement Books, Balls, and Blocks events to increase parental knowledge and skills of young children's learning, development and behavior, especially in the priority zip codes.**

This is an on-going activity and can be virtual and in-person.

- 3. Organize and host a quarterly networking event for partner agencies, especially those in the identified zip zones.**

Planning quarterly networking events targeting child-serving providers, providing information about HMG and strengthen the early childhood community. Example of such activity is the proposed HMG simulation event planned for March 26.

Data Collection & Analysis: Vikrum Vishnubhakta

TOC: If HMG data is regarded as a reliable source to identify gaps and challenges in early childhood across the state, then HMG DE system data will be utilized and endorsed by relevant partners.

Activities to accomplish this are the following:

- 1. HMG DE data is collected, analyzed and used to drive continuous quality improvement and advocacy efforts at the state and local level.**

HMG data has been siloed in recent past, this is an attempt to integrate HMG data with other data systems such as DPH health statistics data and KIDS COUNT.

- 2. HMG DE data is shared with families & community on a routine basis.**

Making HMG data more readily available to our stakeholders. Dr. Atkinson reported she and reached out to Nemours to determine how we could have access to their developmental screening data. Access to and sharing developmental screening data statewide will provide a true account of the developmental screens administered.

- 3. Produce an annual HMG data publication that is shared on Delaware Thrives and other media with stakeholders and partners.**

Centralized Access Point (CAP)- HMG@211 – Debbie Finch

TOC: If families, partners, providers and community agencies are aware of and understand the purpose of Help Me Grow then more families and providers will utilize Help Me Grow DE

The activities to accomplish this are the following:

- 1. Increase the CAP teams' presence and participation in family & child themed groups/committees at the state level and communities**

Two group meetings added to the schedule. Audrey assigned to the Sussex MSHAC group, and Jamie attends the NCC MSHAC group.

Debbie already attends the Kent group. (Multisystem Healthy Action Committee). Let team know if you're aware of any meetings they need to engage.

- 2. Identify and regularly attend community outreach events:**

Have attended 28 events as of 3/8/25

Early Childhood Systems Building

TOC: If we work toward a shared approach to young children's health and development, then we build a more coordinated and efficient early childhood system for children's optimal growth and development.

The activities to accomplish this are the following:

- 1. Collaborate with cross-sector partners to advocate for integrated approach to early childhood systems building.**

Collaborate with a network of health, nutrition, and developmental service programs to improve access to and the navigation of services by leveraging the early literacy program, Reach Out and Read (ROR).

Figure out what it means to have an integrated early childhood system that is aligned and leverages a shared approach to providing services for children and their families.

- 2. Participate in Access to Holistic Services committee and advocate for HMG System goals and objectives.**

As a member of this Delaware Early Childhood Council, Paulina plans to encourage the inclusion and leveraging of HMG goals in the larger committee initiatives.

HMG Advisory Committee reforms: Planning surveys or one-on-one meetings with advisory members to understand their expectations and determine how their programs align with HMG goals and objectives. This is towards a win-win approach that strengthens HMG membership.
Re-visiting the sub-committees: In the past some committees were active but a few others were not functional.

There are currently 4 main HMG sub-committees:
Centralized Access Point: Deb Finch and Jennifer Fromme

Family and Community Engagement: Daphne Evans

Health Provider Outreach: Megan Hayes and Dr. Aguida Atkinson

Data Collection and Analysis: Vikrum Vishnubhakta and Erin Nescott

Please reach out to either Paulina or any of the individuals listed above if you're interested in serving on a committee.

3. Advocate for HMG activities to be reported periodically at DECC meetings

Decision

Will send PPT and Information on sub-committees to members.

Conclusion

Any Other Business and Wrap Up

Partner Updates/Announcements:

HMG Simulation event: March 26 from 11 am – 2:00 pm. Please try and participate

HMG Forum: July 14-16/In-person event/Hartford, Connecticut/ Early Bird: \$590 (3/10)/ \$670

Readiness Teams meeting: Virtual/ March 12/ Working on Lead screening/ details in the chat.

Books Balls and Blocks: 2 Online sessions in April and May.

NEXT MEETING: May 13 2025, at 10 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84083043686?pwd=pskr8f775aAnUgjtvtKHmZGMFGDSNc.1>

Meeting ID: 840 8304 3686

Passcode: 418545